



December 1, 2008

Chairman Kevin Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC, 20554

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrator's Board of Directors,
CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 97-21

Dear Chairman Martin:

It is my privilege to recommend the reappointment of Dr. Brian L. Talbott to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors as the representative for schools that are eligible to receive discounts. As Executive Director of Region 4 Education Service Center which serves 54 school districts representing approximately 1,000,000 students, 83,000 professional educators and over 1200 campuses, I have worked closely with Dr. Talbott and found him to be a champion for education.

Dr. Talbott's wealth of knowledge and experience is a tremendous asset to the USAC. His vision for providing affordable telecommunication services to diverse communities throughout our nation is pinnacle to enhancing the education of all students in all types of educational settings. While presently serving as chair for the USAC Board of Directors, Dr. Talbott strives to make sure that affordable telecommunications services are provided to every state and territory in the United States. Dr. Talbott's experiences as a public school superintendent, as superintendent in two different education service agencies in Washington state, and now as Executive Director of the Association of Educational Service Agencies have given him both hands-on experience and a broad picture of the technological needs of all communities—including rural communities, remote communities, and low-income areas.

While superintendent of STEP-Star Network at Education Service District 101 in Spokane, Washington, Dr. Talbott was responsible for the oversight of the largest educational telecommunications network in the nation. In that role, he coordinated and conducted programs in response to the needs of the educational community and served as liaison between local schools and the Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Dr. Talbott has shared his talents with a number of Boards involved with telecommunications. He is currently Vice-Chair of the Advisory Board for Reading is Fundamental (RFNet). He has served on the boards of the United States Distance Learning Association, Washington State Department of Information Services Technology

The answer is 4.

Region 4 Education Service Center • 7145 West Tidwell Road • Houston, TX 77092-2096
Phone: 713-462-7708 • Fax • 713-744-6514 • www.theansweris4.net
Bill McKinney, Ph.D. – Executive Director



Policy and Review Committee, the National Telecommunications Organization, the Alaska State Satellite Interconnection Planning Committee, and been an expert panel member for the Southwest Regional Laboratory National Telecommunications.

Dr. Talbott's practice of maintaining availability for citizen contact and his connectivity with USAC staff provides an outstanding opportunity for the resolution of issues in an unusually prompt manner. Without hesitation, it is respectfully requested, that you give great consideration to re-appointing Dr. Talbott to the USAC Board of Directors. He brings a long history of educational excellence and stands tall as a champion for affordable telecommunications for all.

Sincerely,

Bill McKinney

The answer is 4.